

Outgoing Mayor Stephen Mandel leaves a legacy of collaboration between the city and the U of A

A stroke clinician and an indigenous lit prof grab Martha Cook Piper Research Prizes

Sustainability Awareness Week

U of A strengthens cultural ties with China through exclusive art exhibit

Bev Betkowski

A visit to the University of Alberta by a renowned Chinese master artist and a delegation from Nankai University has enriched cultural and educational ties between the two institutions and raised Alberta's world profile.



Fan Zeng

In recognition of its relationship with Nankai University, the U of A hosted Professor Fan Zeng—a former dean from Nankai—along with the university's president, a group of professors and 26 Nankai students. The delegation travelled to the U of A to celebrate Fan's art exhibition, which opened Oct. 1. Fan was honoured in a degree ceremony by the U of A last year in Beijing for his lifetime contributions as a philosopher, artist and academic.

The U of A was honoured to host Fan and the Nankai delegation, said Carl Amrhein, provost and vice-president academic.

"The University of Alberta values deeply our cultural, social and economic collaborations with China and with Nankai University," he said. "The bonds created through exchanges such as this further the U of A's commitment to its global relationships, and raise the international profile of Alberta."

The U of A operates more than 100 exchange initiatives with Chinese higher learning and research institutions, and the Nankai visit supports the federal government's Canada-China Programme of Cultural Co-operation.

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They call it puppy love



Members of the Furry Friends pet therapy program stopped by the Students' Union Building over the lunch hour Oct. 9 to provide a little levity and help promote the university's new comprehensive approach to improving students' mental health and wellness, and supporting their academic success. Story page 5.

Alumni a staggering engine of Alberta's prosperity

Folio Staff

A new landmark study estimates that University of Alberta alumni have collectively founded 70,258 organizations globally, creating more than 1.5 million jobs and generating annual revenues of \$348.5 billion. By comparison, the annual gross domestic product of the province of Alberta is \$306.7 billion.

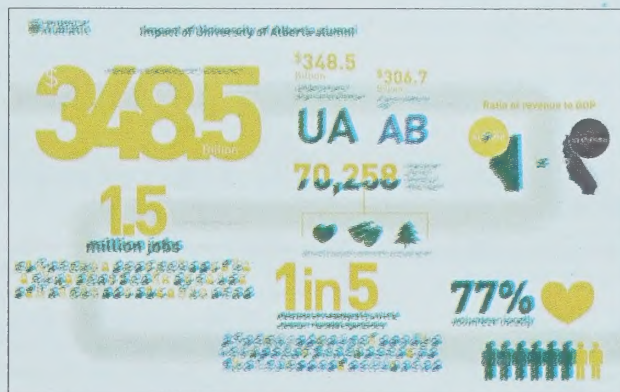
Of those jobs, 390,221 were created in Alberta. With 2.1 million people being employed in Alberta in 2012, roughly one in every five Albertans is employed by a company founded by a University of Alberta graduate.

The study, by University of Alberta professors Tony Briggs ('95 BSc Hons) and Jennifer Jennings, is the first of its kind in Canada, and builds on methodology used recently at MIT, Stanford and Tsinghua University in China.

"These staggering numbers are further evidence that University of Alberta alumni drive the economy of Alberta and have global impact," said President Indira Samarasekera. "Our alumni also promote and lead social and cultural change, fostering innovative thinking and creating societal value that extends beyond dollars and cents."

The study also estimates that, on average, each organization founder started 1.84 organizations, and that annual revenue per employee is \$220,301.

When it comes to organizations founded by alumni, the study shows that the ratio of revenue to GDP for the U of A to the province of Alberta is similar to the ratio of revenue to GDP for Stanford and the state of California. Stanford alumni have started companies such as Google, Hewlett-Packard and Nike.



The survey is the first of its kind to examine the nature of the mission of alumni-founded organizations. One-third (23,332) of the 70,258 organizations started by U of A alumni are non-profit or have a cultural, environmental or social mission. It also shows that more than 77 per cent of U of A alumni have volunteered locally, and 17 per cent have volunteered outside Canada.

The potential social impact of alumni-founded organizations resonates with U of A alumnus Ray Muzyka ('90 BMedSc, '92 MD), a successful

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LIFE. LOVE. ART.

a conversation with
ALANIS MORISSETTE
 AND
MARGARET ATWOOD
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folio

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Mayor holds dear the 'partnership that never stops'

Michael Brown

When asked about the impact his best golfing buddy and outgoing Edmonton mayor Stephen Mandel had on the University of Alberta during his tenure with the city, U of A chancellor Ralph Young begins with a citation from the book *The Rise of the Creative Class* by Richard Florida.

"[Florida] basically argues that great cities have to have a way of attracting creative people," said Young, who has known the Mandel family for 40 years. "The university gives Edmonton that opportunity and I think Stephen gives Edmonton that opportunity."

From the time he took over the city's top post in October 2004, Mandel's vision of a creative, flourishing capital meant hitching much of the city's fortunes to an unwavering belief that as the university goes, so goes the city.

"The billions in economic development, 40,000 students, the research it develops, the interaction with the city when we need to do things, the co-operation, the quality of life it brings, the arts and the culture it brings—you can't get a greater prize for a city than the University of Alberta," he said.

One of his earliest undertakings as mayor was championing the university's move into Edmonton's downtown core. At the 2008 grand opening of the \$86.5-million renovation of the old Bay Building into what became Enterprise Square, Mandel said the move would transform the city's heart.

"We saw that this was not just a catalyst for getting the university downtown, but also for the downtown," he said. "When the book is written about what this will mean for the downtown, it will mean ... a new vibrancy downtown, a creative genius downtown that heretofore we haven't had."



Mayor Stephen Mandel (left), Chancellor Ralph Young and President Indira Samarasekera at this year's spring convocation

"The fact is, I am a tremendous believer in the University of Alberta and the research that it does. It is an integral part of not just the economic fabric, but also the social fabric."

Stephen Mandel

The unveiling of Enterprise Square came in the midst of the year-and-a-half-long bash that was the university's centenary, during which Mandel became a fixture at a number of U of A festivities, including a special ceremony at City Hall in May.

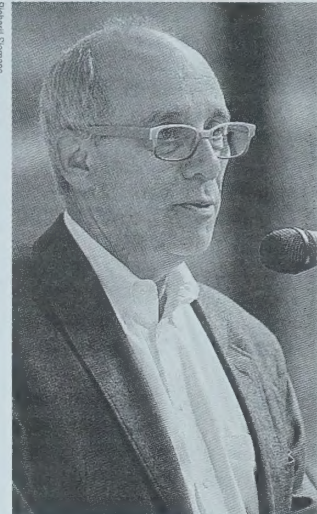
"The University of Alberta has grown and thrived in step with our city for each of its 100 years," said Mandel. "Great universities go together with great cities, and as we grow together we can create a much more dynamic and creative university, and city."

And grow the university has. Mandel's time in office is marked by unprecedented physical growth, with the city partnering to various

degrees on a number of construction projects, the most notable of which is the Edmonton Clinic Health Academy. However, Mandel says that although the milestones and the strengthening bond between the city and the university over the course of his stay in office make for fond memories, the aspect of the U of A that he is most proud of is the behind-the-scenes work that was done in support of Edmontonians.

"Whether we did a study on [community safety], or homelessness, the university helped us out. We now have a number of programs where students work with the city to deal with some of the inner-city problems; the list goes on and on," he said. "The ongoing dialogue we've always had with the university on any number of topics, from the importance of research to the city to supporting research efforts, has always been productive—it's the partnership that never stops."

Mandel says his relationship with the university goes far beyond a partnership to become personal, citing his affinity for the U of A's entire senior administration team, particularly university provost Carl Amrhein, who is currently on leave, and President Indira Samarasekera, whose introduction to the role of university president came less than



Mandel at the opening of Enterprise Square in January of 2008.

a year after Mandel's transition to mayor.

"As president, I have had many opportunities to work with Mayor Mandel, and have always been struck by his commitment to Edmonton and Edmontonians, his vision for the city and his level of engagement with the university," said Samarasekera. "As an outstanding champion for both the City of Edmonton and the University of Alberta, Mayor Mandel recognized that great cities need great universities, and great universities need great cities."

Mandel, who will step down shortly after the Oct. 21 civic election, says he is not sure what the future holds, but he will support the university going forward in any way he can.

"The fact is, I am a tremendous believer in the University of Alberta and the research that it does. It is an integral part of not just the economic fabric, but also the social fabric. I think if people did a survey about what is the most important institution in the city, number one would be the university." ■

U of A chosen to premiere paintings

Continued from page 1

During the cultural visit, which ran Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, Nankai University president Ke Gong discussed collaborative opportunities with U of A President Indira Samarasekera, and together they declared Oct. 1 "Nankai Day," marked by visits by the Chinese scholars to counterparts in various U of A faculties and departments to explore opportunities for joint academic and research activities.

The day also featured the opening of Fan's art exhibit, *The World of Splash Ink: Paintings and Calligraphy* by Professor Fan Zeng, and a free public lecture by the master painter.

Fan's artwork is being hosted for the first time ever in North America through U of A Museums. His work as one of China's last living modern master painters is on exhibition until Oct. 26 at Enterprise Square Galleries. The 35-piece exhibition displays Fan's technique of simple but vivid brushstrokes and his deeply spiritual communication of his subject matter, which encompasses landscapes, flower and bird pairings, and figure painting as well as poetry and calligraphy. His works are highly valued by Asian art collectors.

Being chosen to show Fan's work is a privilege for the U of A, Amrhein added. "We are honoured to be hosting Professor Fan and his exceptional artwork. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our community to engage with this art and to hear him speak about it."

Fan's exhibition and the Nankai visit help promote Alberta and raise the U of A's profile in China, said Cen Huang, executive director of international recruitment and relations for University of Alberta International.

"The University of Alberta is committed to internationalization, and this very special visit takes this relationship with China and with Nankai University further, by combining educational and cultural exchanges touching professors and students."



Fan Zeng's *Some Thought Provoked Between the Old and the Young* is one of the works by the famed Chinese master making its North American premiere at Enterprise Square.

Fan's exhibition, which includes the City of Edmonton as the lead sponsor alongside additional supporters, is a chance to explore China beyond the perspective of economics and business, Huang noted.

"China and North America do business together, but by connecting through an exhibit such as this, you touch the community and this has huge impact beyond business opportunities."

Fan's works reflect his humanity and a deep understanding of Chinese culture, said Huang. "His paintings are not just paintings, but philosophical works; you can see the poetry in his art."

With the support of the Alberta government and the Confucius Institute in Edmonton, a curriculum-based school program has been built around *The World of Splash Ink*. Already booked to capacity, the program brings junior and senior high school students from Edmonton and rural Alberta to study the exhibit.

"Bringing this exhibition to Canada ensures our community continues invaluable exchanges at cultural, social and economic levels," Amrhein said. ■

Donation helps U of A recruit researcher who specializes in women's cancers

Raquel Maurier

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry has recruited a leading women's cancer researcher thanks to more than \$5 million in funding from the Noujaim family, the Alberta Cancer Foundation and the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation. The recruitment is a big win for the city of Edmonton and could lead to advanced clinical care for women battling cancer.

Lynne Postovit, who arrived at the University of Alberta in early July, said she is excited to work at the faculty because of its international reputation in research excellence and collaboration. With the new funding, she becomes the Dr. Anthony Noujaim Legacy Oncology Chair and the Sawin-Baldwin Chair in Ovarian Cancer. Postovit was recruited from the University of Western Ontario and has won several national research awards.

"I think Alberta and the University of Alberta are growing rapidly in the areas of translational cancer research and discovery. The atmosphere is highly innovative, hopeful, clinically oriented and outcomes-oriented. For us, this means that Alberta and the university are uniquely poised to take the discoveries researchers are making in the lab and bring those to the patient. Through its support of scientists like me, and its promotion of collaborative research, the U of A is well equipped to produce this type of translational and visionary work."

The new endowed research chair will focus her work on breast and ovarian cancers. Through her ovarian cancer research she will look for better biomarkers for the disease and try to gain a better understanding of how advanced ovarian cancers resist treatment. To aid in the discovery process, a team of experts from disciplines such as surgery, pathology and biochemistry will be assembled. The core team will include faculty members Helen Steed, Cheng-Han Lee and YangXin Fu.

"We want to know how ovarian cancer can continue to grow and spread even though the disease is being treated very aggressively," said Postovit. "If ovarian cancer is caught early, it is very easy to treat. But in most cases it isn't detectable until later stages, when the cure rate is less than 50 per cent. This type of cancer needs more people looking at it, and more awareness."

"Our team is looking forward to doing great things—to making a real difference for patients. The research funding provided by the Alberta Cancer Foundation and the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation, as well as the generous donors, will allow us to do truly transformative research, working towards the goal of decreasing the number of women who die every year of ovarian and breast cancers. Simply, this money will be used to make breakthroughs that will improve health and decrease suffering."

The funding partners believe in the work of Postovit's team and are confident the scientists



Lynne Postovit is the new Anthony Noujaim Legacy Oncology Chair and the Sawin-Baldwin Chair in Ovarian Cancer.

will make research advances that will lead to improved care and treatment for women battling cancer. About 175 women in Alberta are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year and about half of them die within five years of diagnosis.

"The faculty is excited about the competitive recruitment of one of Canada's best young scientists to Alberta," said D. Douglas Miller, dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. "Dr. Postovit and her team will significantly impact our cancer research capabilities in Edmonton and, through collaborations, across the province."

Voluntary severance approved for 121 academic staff

Michael Brown

As a way to help ease the crush of the university's budgetary crisis, 121 academic staff members have been approved for voluntary severance.

The Voluntary Severance Program, which was announced Aug. 6, was created to help address \$56 million in budget reductions facing the university in the next year. The shortfall is a result of what amounts to an \$84.4-million reduction to the university's base funding envelope announced as part of the provincial budget in March.

Of the 121 individuals who have been approved for voluntary severance under this program, 83 are faculty members, faculty service officers or librarians—including 77 assistant, associate or full professors—and 38 are administrative professional officers.

The Faculty of Arts has the most people, 30, who are taking voluntary severance. Science is second with 15, followed by seven from medicine and dentistry. Twenty-two employees working across the university's various central administration units also took voluntary severance.

The one-time cost of the severance is \$16.6 million; it is anticipated to have an annual savings of approximately \$12 million.

End dates vary among individuals; however, most will leave June 30, 2014. As a result, there will not be an impact on classes and programming in this 2013-2014 year.

"We would like to thank all of the individuals taking voluntary severance," wrote President Indira Samarasekera in a Colloquy blog posting Oct. 1. "Their talents and many years of service and dedication to their departments and units—as well as the University of Alberta more generally—are highly valued. We know they will be missed deeply by colleagues and students."

Given that there will be fewer faculty members next year, university administrators anticipate having to reduce enrolments for 2014-2015, resulting in increases in entrance averages for September 2014, especially in major faculties. In August, budget cuts forced the Faculty of Science to increase its competitive average, which was set at 80 per cent, in an effort to reduce enrolment from 6,700 students to 6,400.

"In the coming months, we will prepare transition plans so that we are able to maintain the quality of the student experience to the greatest extent possible," wrote Samarasekera.

Applications for the voluntary severance program were received Sept. 16 and then reviewed by deans, vice-presidents and the acting provost for approval or denial. On Sept. 30, individuals were notified by their respective deans or vice-presidents of the outcome of their applications. All told, 137 academic staff members applied for voluntary severance.

Full details are available under Budget Documents on Change@UAlberta.

Edmonton universities join forces to enrich communications degrees

Folio Staff

Two of Alberta's top post-secondary institutions have joined forces to deliver enhanced communications degrees for their students.

With a letter of intent signed Sept. 30, the University of Alberta's Communications and Technology Graduate Program and MacEwan University's Bachelor of Communication Studies program will begin to collaborate on learning pathway initiatives, capacity building and research, with the intent to enrich the learning environment for students.

"The commitment on both sides to champion strategic communication will go great lengths toward realizing economic benefits through co-operation, enhancing the excellent curriculums of both programs and establishing our province as a sought-after destination for communications students," said Katy Campbell, dean of the U of A's Faculty of Extension, who signed the letter along with Denise Roy, dean of fine arts and communications at MacEwan.

Gordon Gow, director of the Master of Arts in Communications and Technology (MACT) program at the U of A, added the letter of

intent will set out some ideas and parameters for the two universities to collaborate on things like programming, teaching and learning initiatives, and even research efforts.

"We are embarking on a new relationship that will look at ways that we can bring our complementary strengths together to enrich and strengthen communication studies here in Edmonton," he said.

The Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications at MacEwan specializes in providing outstanding programs in the visual, performing and communication arts.

The Communications and Technology Graduate Program at the U of A offers a theoretical, historical and practical examination of communications in the era of the Internet, social media and mobile devices.

The MACT degree is designed for those who wish to provide reflective and informed leadership in the management and use of information and communications technologies in their organizations, fields and communities. The graduate degree is delivered in a blended format of classroom and online learning. Students can complete it part-time within two years.

Revenue from companies started by alumni outpaces Alberta's GDP

Continued from page 1

entrepreneur who is now focused on giving back. He co-founded BioWare with two fellow med school alumni in 1995, staying on in a senior leadership role after BioWare was acquired by Electronic Arts in 2007 until his retirement in October 2012.

"My science and medical training at the U of A fostered a lifelong passion for continuous learning, taught me the vital importance of humility and made me aware of how critical teamwork and collaboration are for sustaining entrepreneurial success," said Muzyka.

Now in his third "career chapter," Muzyka has founded Threshold Impact, which mentors and invests in information technology, new media, medical innovations and social entrepreneurs, focusing on sustainable, profitable impact investments.

The study also showed that U of A alumni are innovative. More than 30 per cent of alumni have published peer-reviewed work; 15 per cent have created literary or artistic work for sale; 24 per cent have created a new product, service or business model; and 4.6 per cent have patented a new product or method.

"The results show nothing less than human progress through collective and creative acts—and it is universities that incubate and accelerate this progress," said Briggs.

Jennings noted, "The study reveals that the university is a catalyst for our alumni to take leadership roles in the world. When asked, our alumni indicate that it is our faculty who are the leading catalyst that has fuelled their successes."

\$348.5

Billion

UAlberta Alumni
Organization Revenue

\$306.7

Billion

Province of Alberta
GDP

UA

AB

A previous study by Briggs and Jennings released Oct. 2, 2012, showed that the U of A annually contributes \$12.3 billion to the Alberta economy—the equivalent of 135 NHL teams. That study focused on the direct impact of institutional and visitor spending combined with induced economic impact from university education and research.

The University of Alberta Alumni Impact Survey was emailed to 84,387 alumni in the summer of 2012, and received 11,229 responses and 8,853 fully completed responses.

Martha Cook Piper Research Prizes

English prof rethinking Canadian narratives through indigenous arts

Michael Brown

When she was an undergrad attending Queen's University in Kingston, it dawned upon Keavy Martin that she knew more about the literary history of the United Kingdom than about the land she called home.

"When I began reading indigenous literature and began taking native studies in university, I became aware that my own education had been very lopsided," she said. "Indigenous literatures and knowledge are so relevant to everybody who is living here on this land."

"By virtue of living in this place, all of us—no matter what our heritage is—have a connection to indigenous history that, while often brutal, very much persists today."

She had another revelation after arriving at the University of Alberta in 2009 at the tender age of 26, enlisted by the Department of English and Film Studies to address the need for scholarship in the area of indigenous literatures.

Martin, a non-indigenous person whose initial experience with indigenous culture came largely while being embedded in the intellectual world of academia, says it was only



Keavy Martin

after she began interacting with her students and local indigenous communities, and began teaching at the Pangnirtung Summer School in Nunavut, that she came to understand the shortcomings of an education system in which intellect is given priority.

"We don't have the other tools to think about other aspects of education," said Martin. "In some indigenous circles they

might refer to spiritual, emotional and physical aspects along with the intellectual, and try to think holistically about teaching and research."

That journey culminated in a book Martin published last fall called *Stories in a New Skin: Approaches to Inuit Literature*, which analyzes Inuit writings from a range of genres and historical periods, exploring many of the challenges faced by teachers and scholars who are interested in indigenous tradition. It also led to her receiving the 2013 Martha Cook Piper Research Prize, given annually to two faculty members who are at the early stage of their careers, enjoy a reputation for original research and show outstanding promise as researchers.

"Keavy has a remarkable ability to deeply engage with the complex oral traditions of the Inuit people that she has worked closely with through the course of her research, while asking critical questions that expand the possible conversations that the stories create," wrote former U of A law professor and Aboriginal rights activist Val Napoleon in support of Martin's nomination for the prize.

The book has led to a five-year, \$500,000 research project funded by the Social Sciences and

Humanities Research Council entitled "Beyond Reconciliation: Indigenous Arts and Public Engagement after the TRC." The project's aim is to bring together scholars, curators and artists to creatively reinvent the conversation about Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal relationships, healing and the colonial legacy in Canada.

"What we're trying to do is think about ways that indigenous arts and also creative arts-based research can help to transform the conversation that we're having nationally about reconciliation, and about the relationship between indigenous people and the rest of Canada," said Martin.

She adds she is hopeful that the resulting conversation can go beyond reconciliation to provide lessons she thinks Canadian society needs to learn.

"I think there are a lot of indicators in the province that we are out of balance," she said, pointing to the rash of disconcerting headlines that lead stories that range from the impacts of our resource industries on northern communities to the province's financial woes. "That is a system that is out of balance; I think that indigenous principles can really help us to begin to transform this society—that's why I find indigenous arts and scholarship so inspiring." ■

Clinical researcher gets award nod for promising research into alleviating stroke suffering

Raquel Maurier

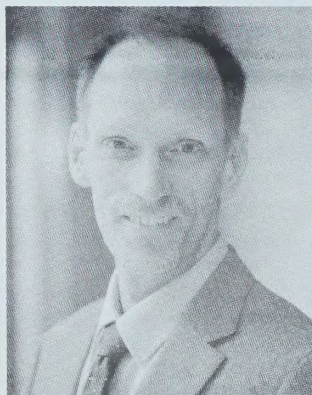
Ken Butcher has been awarded the Martha Cook Piper Research Prize for his original and outstanding research that is advancing clinical stroke care. The University of Alberta award is given each year to two promising faculty members at an early stage in their careers.

Butcher, a clinical researcher in the Department of Medicine's Division of Neurology, conducts early-phase clinical trials focusing on improving care for stroke patients. He is now working on a trial to see whether rapid reduction in blood pressure improves outcomes for patients with

intracerebral hemorrhage. Another study he is working on is looking at how to prevent early recurrence of stroke in people who have suffered mini-strokes, or transient ischemic attacks.

"I think it's a validation of what you're doing to win an award like this—to be recognized by your peers and more senior colleagues at a university. It demonstrates that your work is being recognized as important," said Butcher.

"I think my research is contributing to a body of literature that will result in a change of attitudes towards treatment for a specific type of stroke (intracerebral hemorrhage). The work will advance clinical care of stroke patients."



Ken Butcher

Butcher has received many awards for his outstanding research.

In 2011, he was selected as a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair. The Capital Region Medical Staff Association named him Researcher of the Year in 2010, and in 2009 he received a New Investigator Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. He also received a Clinical Investigator Award from Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions in 2008, and in 2007 the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada named him a Research Scholar and gave him the Henry J.M. Barnett Research Award for being the highest-ranked new investigator in the area of stroke research.

He is a member of various peer review committees and editorial boards, and is regularly asked to

present his work at national and international research meetings. In total, he has published 118 peer-reviewed research papers—46 of which he led as the senior author.

Butcher received his PhD and MD at the University of Western Ontario, completed his neurology residency at the U of A, and worked on his post-doctoral clinical research fellowship in the area of stroke imaging in Australia.

The Martha Cook Piper Research Prize commemorates the significant contributions Martha Cook Piper made to the research community while serving as vice-president of research and vice-president of research and external affairs at the U of A. ■

United Way campaign looks to soar past \$10M milestone

Geoff McMaster

It's hard to believe that in a city as prosperous as Edmonton, 10 per cent of the population—or 120,000 people—live in poverty, some 37,000 of them children.

That's why the United Way has chosen "creating pathways out of poverty" for its 2013 campaign theme, which the University of Alberta will support with a fundraising drive through the month of October.

The campaign ramps up this week, with most staff and faculty receiving pledge cards to make donations. "We're asking people to complete that and send it in as quickly as they can," says co-ordinator Darlene Bryant, adding that the goal this year is \$650,000, which will take the U of A to a milestone of \$10 million raised over 30 years.

Payment options couldn't be easier, she says. They include payroll deductions, or preauthorized bank or credit card payments in one-time or monthly payments.

Through its United Way campaign, the U of A supports more than 50 community organizations, including two on campus: the Community-University Partnership in the Faculty of Extension—which aims to improve the development of children, youth, families and communities—and the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services in the Faculty of Education.

"The United Way helps to support the institute's Family Resilience Project, which provides free specialized counselling for children, youth and families in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity needs and concerns," says Kris Wells, director of programs and services for the institute.

"This funding has been instrumental in helping many families to develop the knowledge, skills and resilience needed to learn how to support their children with unconditional acceptance and love."

The campaign officially kicked off Oct. 5 at the 54th annual Turkey Trot, which saw 571 runners and walkers, along with 40 volunteers, take to the streets to raise \$2,855. Then on Oct. 8, the university held a Loopy Lunch food truck event on the bus loop by HUB Mall.

Coming up, a guitar signed by Canadian musicians Sarah McLachlan, k.d. lang, Colin James, Chris Hadfield and the Barenaked Ladies will be auctioned off.

Closing out the campaign Oct. 29 is Chillin' for Charity, an event organized by U of A business students, in which participants plunge into pools of icy water. Dean of business Joseph Doucet has agreed to brave the chill, throwing down the gauntlet for other deans on campus.

"Part of our goal is community spirit; it's not just about raising money, although that's important," says Bryant.



This year's Turkey Trot saw 571 runners raise \$2,855.

"Anybody can plan an event, and all are encouraged to do so."

Thermometers placed around campus and online will track the campaign total through the month. For more information, visit uofa.ualberta.ca/united-way. ■

Recommendations support student mental health, academic success

Bryan Alary

The University of Alberta is taking a comprehensive new approach to supporting student mental health and wellness, following the release of a report outlining 54 recommendations aimed at helping students achieve personal and academic success.

As part of a special provost's fellowship on mental health, the report Student Mental Health at the University of Alberta contains 54 recommendations that fully capture student mental health issues, improve services, guide structural changes and ensure initiatives are sustainable (see sidebar).

"Supporting student mental health is foundational to the academic success, satisfaction and well-being of our students," said Robin Everall, associate dean of students and author of the report. "The best way to offer our support is through mental health and wellness strategies and plans that include every level and touch each individual of the institution."

"It really does take an entire campus to support a student."

In a 2011 survey of U of A students, more than half reported experiencing feelings of hopelessness in the previous year, including 87.5 per cent who indicated they at times had felt overwhelmed. Helping students stay healthy and thrive in the face of complex lives is a common concern of post-secondary institutions, Everall said.

"All post-secondary institutions are dealing with this and we all need to think about our role and mandate in helping students become successful citizens," she said.

Many of the recommendations reflect initiatives that have already been completed or are in progress, such as expanding the successful Unwind Your Mind program beyond exam time—including the popular Furry Friends pet therapy program—and creating four new psychologist satellite offices where students can access mental health support in their own faculties. The U of A has also created a new Community Social Work Team to help students become more engaged and able to connect with resources, while also helping students, staff, and faculty build capacity and resiliency within the university community.

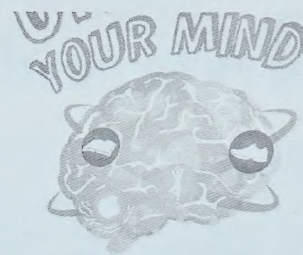
"One of our goals as a campus community is to be innovative about how we meet demand for mental health support and make services more accessible for students, through multiple access points," said Everall. "By bringing support to the students—and not the other way around—we are making mental health and wellness more visible, more accessible and less stigmatized to ensure everyone gets the help they need."

Sean Trayner, a master of public health graduate student who works at University Wellness Services and helps promote initiatives like Unwind Your Mind, says students have a "huge" appetite for information about mental health services, noting the subject is out in the open and students are willing to talk about their experiences. Trayner says he tries to maintain a healthy balance, separating studies, work and private life with strong social support to reduce stress.

"There's a lot of good work going into mental health and a lot of people invested in it now," he said. "The university and the staff genuinely care about students and student



Students walking through the Students' Union Building Oct. 9 were treated to relief from midterm exam stress in the form of Furry Friends brought to campus by the Office of the Dean of Students Oct. 9.



THIS EXAM SEASON
DE-STRESS
WHILE YOU STUDY

success, and mental health is a big part of that."

Everall said her report represents a comprehensive look at mental health support; some recommendations can be implemented in the short term, whereas others are more long-term in focus. Several will make use of the \$3 million in provincial funding the U of A received last winter, part of a province-wide initiative to improve student mental health on Alberta's post-secondary campuses.

"This approach allows us to be proactive in reaching out to students, but it also improves our capacity to react to students' needs, which we know are always evolving," said Everall.

"We will do everything we can to help students succeed because it's the right thing to do, for the students and our entire community." ■

Recommendations from the report

The 54 recommendations span 10 categories covering a full spectrum of mental health supports and services:

- Demonstrate a visible campus commitment.
- Expand wellness initiatives and raise their profile.
- Allocate dedicated resources.
- Move towards cohesive mental health and wellness programming.
- Engage our community.
- Enhance student-centred communications strategies.
- Create institution-wide infrastructure.
- Review and enhance orientation.
- Serve the needs of international students.
- Enhance outreach initiatives.

Donation will help bring new medical technology to market

Richard Cairney

A \$2.2-million donation from University of Alberta alumni Jim Sorensen, '63 BSc(ChemEng), and his wife Marlene, '70 MEd, will aid in the commercialization of new medical technologies.

The Sorensens are establishing a new chair position in the Department of Biomedical Engineering that Jim describes as "revolutionary" because its goal is to commercialize new medical technology.

"The result will be the commercialization of medical technologies which would improve the lives of Canadians and people around the world through better health care," Jim said at a gift announcement held during the U of A's 2013 Alumni Weekend. "This chair will meet an enormous need as traditional granting programs do not provide funding for commercialization activities."

David Lynch, dean of the Faculty of Engineering, noted that the faculty has been growing its biomedical engineering education and research capacity over the years, offering biomedical options in each engineering program and developing a deep pool of leading, interdisciplinary biomedical engineering researchers.

Biomedical engineering in the faculty is an area of "major focus and prominence," with more than 30 professors and their graduate students exploring biomedical engineering applications such as imaging technologies, drug delivery systems and technologies to support remote medicine, Lynch said.

Funding for the Jim Sorensen Chair in Biomedical Engineering will exist in perpetuity. The Sorensens have pledged \$2.2 million, and the faculty will contribute \$800,000 that is available for biomedical engineering.

The Sorensens previously established the Trudy Sorensen Memorial Scholarship in Biomedical Engineering. Named for their late daughter Trudy, who died of breast cancer, the \$5,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a student with superior academic achievement entering the second, third or fourth year of study in the materials engineering biomedical option.

Sorensen, who works as an independent consultant specializing in refinery design, says he and his wife were pleasantly surprised to discover they were capable of establishing a chair program "even though I did not start a multimillion-dollar corporation."

In helping the couple give back to the university and have an impact on health care, Jim said, the Faculty of Engineering "helped us realize our dream."

Lynch says the "very special gift" will have a lasting impact and will help bring biomedical research from the research lab to the bedside.

U of A engineering professors are recognized internationally for biomedical advances including inhalable drug delivery, medical imaging and the development of an ultra-fast laser scalpel. The new chair position will help bring those advances to health practitioners, he said.

"This gift helps us move in a direction where there is a person at the end of the process who will benefit from this research. This helps us move from the lab to commercialize for the public good, to translate education and research to use." ■



Alumni Jim and Marlene Sorensen have donated \$2.2 million to the U of A to establish an engineering chair focused on commercializing medical technologies.

2013 campus fundraiser to build community, path out of poverty

Ralph Young, University Chancellor

The University of Alberta and its faculty and staff are an integral

part of Edmonton and the Capital Region. One way we show this is through our continued and generous support of the United Way. This year is a particularly important one, as the university aims to exceed a cumulative \$10 million in donations over the last three decades.

Over the years, University of Alberta employees have found many creative ways to raise donations. The Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation's annual Turkey Trot, run last weekend, is in its 54th year. Hundreds came out for this past Tuesday's Loopy Lunch. Later this month comes the student-run Chillin' for Charity, when some daring folk will raise money by jumping into a pool of icy water. An initiative of Jeux du Commerce (JDC) West out of the School of Business, Chillin' for Charity is close to raising \$100,000 over the last seven years. Visit our U of A United Way Campaign website for more information on other events being arranged by departments and units across the university. I encourage you to get involved.

The United Way is not just about raising money; it is about building community both on and off campus. Many of you will have received my recent letter announcing the launch of this year's employee United Way campaign. I urge you to fill out the donation form and contribute, and to join in the fun.

To better help our communities, the United Way has created a new program called Pathways Out of Poverty. This program provides economic support to local organizations that work to improve educational, economic and wellness outcomes for Edmontonians. Our goal is to raise \$650,000 for Pathways Out of Poverty. I'm confident that, with your help, we can do it.

We should be proud of the long-standing and generous contribution employees at the U of A have made to the Capital Region through the United Way. Thank you.



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the open door

U of A expertise helps propel space research to new heights

Bev Betkowski

A leading University of Alberta physicist is taking space research to new heights as he teams with the Canadian Space Agency on some major projects to advance understanding of the universe and build capacity in Canada's space science programs.

Robert Rankin and his space physics team, working with the Canadian Space Agency, have embarked on two projects—one in co-operation with NASA—both just launched into space.

Rankin is leading the initiatives as principal investigator to develop space physics computer models that will be hosted on the Canadian Space Science Data Portal. The portal gives researchers from across the country access to space science analytic tools and data.

Under Rankin's leadership, U of A researchers collaborated with the Canadian Space Agency to design a suite of software that will be used to locate and download data from CASSIOPE, a Canadian-made small satellite launched into orbit Sept. 29. Data from the mission will be relayed back to the space science data portal, where scientists access the information. The Canadian Space Agency is also funding the U of A to make use of the data, Rankin noted.

"Our involvement in these far-reaching projects places the University of Alberta as a leading partner in furthering Canada's scope and excellence in space science research," said Rankin. "The work we are doing contributes to more efficient space exploration and may also help solve problems here on Earth caused by space weather."

CASSIOPE, launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, hosts an Enhanced Polar Outflow Probe. Known as e-POP, this instrument is studying

a poorly understood phenomenon in which the Earth's atmosphere can suddenly upwell and start to bleed off into space, for example, during geomagnetic storms. The data collected will add to the understanding of how space weather affects satellites and sensitive ground-based systems on Earth, such as power grids. The software developed by Rankin and his team, called the Mission Planning Tool, will help researchers control e-POP's delicate instruments and balance available power and memory on board the satellite, so that data can be successfully transferred back to Earth.

In a separate project, Rankin and his team are studying the dynamics of dust over the lunar surface, using data provided through NASA's Lunar Atmosphere and Dust

Environment Explorer (LADEE) project, launched into space Sept. 6.

In partnership with a LADEE mission scientist, Rankin and his group are developing models of how lunar dust works. The group, which has worked on other NASA projects, analyzes data gathered by the LADEE spacecraft.

The project follows up on observations of moon glow made in 1968 by Apollo astronauts.

The U of A team's project proposal was one of only eight selected by the Canadian Space Agency.

"The fact that a leading scientist on NASA's LADEE spacecraft is interested in what we have to say about the science returned by the mission is testament to the level of expertise we have at the U of A." ■



Robert Rankin

Grad student plays instrumental role in a pair of space missions

Suzette Chan

For most people, the fall launch means watching new television shows. But this fall, University of Alberta physics grad student David Miles is watching the launches of two space missions that carry instrumentation he helped create.

Miles, who also holds an engineering degree, was one of two authors of firmware for the MGF magnetometer on CASSIOPE/e-POP, which launched Sept. 29 from the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.

The second launch takes place in Norway later this year. It will send up a sounding rocket that includes the Next Generation Fluxgate Magnetometer, an upgrade to the e-POP instrument.

e-POP is studying sudden bleeding off of Earth's atmosphere into space during, for example, geomagnetic storms. This upwell seems to have a negligible effect on the atmosphere, but it increases the density



David Miles

of space near the Earth. "In extreme cases, this phenomenon causes satellites in orbit to jump significantly enough that they are temporarily 'lost' until ground stations can survey the sky and find the satellite again."

"The two missions both target space physics and space weather, but they are investigating different phenomena and consequently are sent to very different places," says Miles, whose research is supervised by professor Ian Mann.

Miles is also working on an instrument for the Norwegian ICI-4 sounding rocket that will study local irregularities in electron density, which interfere with GPS and communication signals, particularly in the north. "Assuming that the instrument rocket passes the vibration testing in two weeks, I will meet the rocket in Svalbard in late November to prepare it for launch."

Miles designed the ICI-4 instrument and built the flight hardware with the help of the Department of Physics electronics and machine shops and one external contractor. ■

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Sustainability Awareness Week puts green in Green and Gold

Michael Brown

Labs hold the heart of any research-intensive university, so it is little wonder they rival only the University of Alberta's armada of computers as the biggest energy consumers.

There are, however, ways to lessen the contribution labs make to the U of A's annual \$18-million electricity bill—all of which are part of a new Office of Sustainability initiative that will be front and centre during the Sustainability Awareness Week.

Green Labs is the newest component of the overarching Green Spaces Certification Program, a popular three-level (gold, silver, bronze), voluntary certification process that encourages people in work, school and living spaces on campus to adopt sustainable practices and green their operations.

A lab that is certified as green is one that demonstrates best practices for environmental health and safety. More specifically, everyone working in the lab is committed to reducing the overall impact of daily operations, and has taken steps to reduce waste, and conserve energy and water.

Office of Sustainability director Trina Innes says an upcoming info session, entitled Learn About Green Labs at UAlberta (Oct. 25, 12:15 p.m., 367 Education), will explore best practices in lab sustainability, including how waste is handled in the lab, how glassware is cleaned, how paper is managed and how hazardous waste is handled, as well as what is being done in labs to address energy efficiency, which could include anything from adjusting settings on fridge freezers to turning off equipment to managing fume hoods.



Students will have a chance to power up the band thanks to a fully pedal-powered concert courtesy of Music Is a Weapon Oct. 21 in Quad beginning at noon.

"Sustainability Awareness Week celebrates everything social, economic and environmental, so there isn't really a theme," said Innes, of the celebration of all things sustainable that sees involvement from some 8,000 members of the campus community, trailing only the U of A's International Week in size. "But embedded in a lot

of our activities is energy savings—if there are things we can do to reduce the energy costs to the institution, those are some of the things that we would like to do."

Innes says this year's energy-focused events include everything from learning about the sustainable vehicles on campus or the District Energy System to a green-building crawl that features energy solutions.

One of the 50-plus events planned for SAW 2013 is a webinar put on by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability and Higher Education to coincide with the North America-wide Campus Sustainability Day Oct. 23.

"The whole point of the week is to help people understand the many facets of sustainability and many ways to plug in, both on and off campus." ■

Green Grants

As part of the SAW festivities, the Office of Sustainability wants people to remember that they can turn their energy-saving ideas into green, as in cash.

Green Grants is a year-round program funded in large part by beverage-container returns on North Campus. It supports projects that produce measurable benefits and results at the University of Alberta.

Launched four years ago, the program has been handing out about 12 Green Grants a year.

"We would be happy to grow that," said Office of Sustainability director Trina Innes. "It's only a small pot of money, but \$500 to a student club can make a world of difference."

"What we're really interested in this year is energy conservation ideas."

Projects that have received funding include a clothing recycling program out of CAPS: Your U of A Career Centre that sells gently used business attire to students heading out for interviews, Fair Trade Fridays in engineering, the Green & Gold Community Garden and Trick or TREAT, the annual food drive to enhance social sustainability on campus.

For more information about Green Grants, go to sustainability.ualberta.ca. ■

See the many SAW events

MONDAY, OCT. 21

SAW Kickoff, noon-2 p.m. North Campus Quad
Stop by Quad at lunchtime to celebrate sustainability at the U of A! Enjoy a free local BBQ, grab a cupcake and groove to a pedal-powered concert featuring local artists.

World Premiere: Surviving Eugenics in the 21st Century—Our Stories Told, 7-9:15 p.m., Metro Cinema, 8712 109 St.

Join the filmmakers and survivors of Alberta's eugenics era for the world premiere of this series of short videos in which survivors tell their own stories. Free admission. Closed captioned and ASL interpretation provided.

TUESDAY, OCT. 22

Sustainable Cooking Class, 5:30-8 p.m. International Centre, HUB Mall

Learn about sustainable eating by preparing a meal with local and seasonal ingredients, then sit down with fellow participants to share the meal you all made.

Sustainable Vehicles at the U, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Celebration Plaza, North Campus

Bring your own mug for free Fair Trade coffee and get a close-up look at the U of A's fleet of hybrid vehicles, learn about sustainable design and fuel cell technology from the EcoCar team, and check out a solar-powered grounds vehicle.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 23

Edmonton Waste Management Centre Tour, noon-4 p.m.
Explore a world-class waste management centre. Witness a compost heap larger than seven football fields, watch as electronics are disassembled to recover hidden treasure, and learn how the upcoming waste-to-biofuels project will help divert more than 90 per cent of Edmontonians' waste from landfill by 2014.

Climate Adaptation: Resilient Campuses & Communities
Join participants from colleges and universities across North America for this webinar addressing climate change adaptation. This event is part of the continent-wide Campus Sustainability Day.

THURSDAY, OCT. 24

Electronics Roundup

Obsolete computers? Old cellphones? Unused electronics? Bring them to the annual Electronics Roundup, and Shanked Computer Recycling Inc. will ensure they're reused or safely recycled. Drop-off is in the parking lot south of Jubilee Auditorium. Personal items only.

Kilburn Memorial Lecture: Mike Harcourt on Community Energy Systems

Former B.C. premier Michael Harcourt will discuss the sustainability of our community's energy systems.

Time Travellers Lecture Series: HMS Investigator's Arctic Excursions

Venture off campus to the Royal Alberta Museum and enjoy a lecture by Ryan Harris, senior marine archeologist at Parks Canada. In 2010, that agency located the wreck of HMS Investigator, a ship that was lost searching for the 1845 Franklin Expedition. Commander Robert McClure and his crew had abandoned the vessel in 1853 after two winters in ice-locked Mercy Bay. Ryan Harris describes what HMS Investigator reveals about the challenge of Arctic exploration and research.

FRIDAY, OCT. 25

An Inconvenient Species: Polar Bears in a Changing Climate, 12:15-12:45 p.m. Enterprise Square Galleries, 10230 Jasper Ave.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear world-renowned researcher Andrew Derocher speak about his important work studying the imminent threat of climate change to polar bears.

Net Zero Home Tour, 2-4 p.m. Office of Sustainability, 2-06 North Power Plant

Find out what it takes to make a home that produces as much energy as it consumes. Visit a model home that uses technologies for energy and water efficiency, low carbon emissions and natural landscaping. Discover how you can save money by reducing your gas, electricity and water use.

Sustainability Awareness Week
October 21 - 25, 2013
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Over 50 events

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sustainability.ualberta.ca/saw

Download the online program for event details & descriptions



Aboriginal programs mark milestones in serving students, communities

Bev Betkowski

Some of the University of Alberta's leading Aboriginal institutions and programs celebrate major milestones this fall as they mark years of service to their communities and students.

The Faculty of Native Studies raised a tipi Sept. 27 to commemorate its 25th anniversary, while the Faculty of Education's Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP) marks 10 years in October. Both are a source of deep pride for the U of A, said Martin Ferguson-Pell, acting provost and vice-president academic.

"The success and longevity of these initiatives shows the commitment the U of A has to indigenous education, from academic instruction to policy development and beyond, to touch the lives of many in communities throughout Alberta, nationally and internationally," he said.

Since first being floated as an idea in 1972, the Faculty of Native Studies—which remains the only one in Canada since becoming a faculty in 2006—has established a legacy as a place of growth, empowerment and knowledge for all of its students, said Brendan Hokowhitu, faculty dean.

"The Faculty of Native Studies has, since its inception, been instrumental in opening up conversation and a deeper knowledge of



Kristine Wray paints the tipi that was raised Sept. 27 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Faculty of Native Studies.

Aboriginal issues," Hokowhitu said. "Our graduates, whether they are Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, leave here with enriched perspectives as they journey through their lives and careers."

Kristine Wray, who was the first to graduate in 2006 with a BA Native Studies/BSc Environmental and Conservation Sciences degree, remembers often being amazed throughout her classroom journey.

"Learning about Canada from the Aboriginal point of view, I walked out of class every day thinking, 'I didn't know that.' I wish everyone on campus would take a native studies class."

Wray, who also holds a master's degree in rural sociology from the U of A and works as a research co-ordinator in the Faculty of Native Studies, is also an artist, and painted the tipi that was raised Sept. 27 in front of Pembina Hall and blessed through a pipe ceremony.

The tipi bears variations of the faculty's multicoloured ribbon design and a painting of a buffalo (done by Wray's fellow artist Dean Watson), an animal deeply entwined with Aboriginal culture and traditions in this part of the country.

Wray says she was honoured to work on the tipi, believing that the work the faculty

"Learning about Canada from the Aboriginal point of view, I walked out of class every day thinking, 'I didn't know that.' I wish everyone on campus would take a native studies class."

Kristine Wray

does is important. "It helps students shift to an increased understanding of Aboriginal Peoples and cultures in Canada."

The university's initial program of native studies was approved as a school in 1984 and a full-fledged faculty in 2006.

Today, the faculty has 437 alumni (including distinguished members such as Derek Nepinak, Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs), is home to the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research and offers several native studies degrees, some of which combine with education and science streams. The faculty also has certificate programs in Aboriginal governance and in Aboriginal sport and recreation (the only one of its kind in Canada). Most recently, a master of arts in native studies was added to the faculty's offerings. ■

ATEP: Sowing seeds of teaching and learning in communities

As another dynamic U of A initiative, the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program and its graduates are making a difference in their communities, said Fern Snart, dean of the Faculty of Education.

"We are proud to offer this program from our faculty and to have such strong partnerships with our communities. There are hundreds of students who benefit from ATEP through our teachers out there, and that is our ultimate goal."

The community-based degree program was started a decade ago by the Faculty of Education to meet an acute need for Aboriginal teachers and for teachers with an understanding of

Aboriginal histories and perspectives in classrooms, said Angela Wolfe, associate director for ATEP.

"Alberta has a high population of Aboriginal youth, and ATEP graduates are prepared to teach responsively and meaningfully when they have Aboriginal students in their classes, and in Aboriginal communities," Wolfe said. "The positive effect is immense as our graduates work and contribute in their home communities."

Partnering with Blue Quills First Nations College, Maskwacchee Cultural College, Portage College and Northern Lakes College in Alberta, ATEP has graduated 120 teachers over 10 years, with 97

per cent of them employed in their home communities. The program, which has a retention rate of 90 per cent, stays responsive and tailored to community needs through the insight of elders and site co-ordinators.

ATEP's success will shine during fall convocation, when the highest-ever number of ATEP grads cross the stage, including a first cohort with master's degrees, in collaboration with Blue Quills First Nations College. ATEP's 10th anniversary is being celebrated Oct. 18 and 19 with a conference where alumni and students will present on the theme of coming full circle in teaching and learning.

Engineering students apply their classroom theory to reach out and engage the North

Richard Cairney

Three University of Alberta engineering students who spent their summer working in a small northern community have had a major impact on energy use and flood control by applying their engineering know-how to help solve local challenges.

As part of the newly established Engage North initiative, engineering students Stephanie Lettner, Heidi Johnson and Keita Hill worked for the hamlet of Pangnirtung, Nunavut,

from May to August. Hill was tasked with finding solutions to annual spring flooding that affects the town; Johnson and Lettner worked on finding ways to reduce the hamlet's power bills by using energy-efficient lighting.

"Their impact on our community was so much more than I imagined," said Ron Mongeau, chief administrator of the hamlet of 1,500 residents. "It has been really gratifying."

Already, plans are being made to help alleviate flooding, and the

town has taken enormous strides on energy conservation.

Based on a research report and recommendations compiled by Lettner and Johnson, the hamlet decided to use LED lighting and connected with Vancouver-based LED Canada to upgrade its lighting systems. The new lighting will be paid for through monthly savings in energy costs, rather than up front.

"We were able to do this largely based on the work that Heidi and Stephanie did. Now, we're hearing from other municipalities around

"The students' impact on our community was so much more than I imagined. It has been really gratifying."

Ron Mongeau

Nunavut saying, 'We want to look at what happens with you and consider it for our own towns,'" said Mongeau.

For a region that uses diesel fuel to generate electricity and goes without daylight for much of the winter, lighting costs add up quickly. And there are big savings to be found in LED lighting.

"Looking at the utility bills, you can definitely see that in the winter there is way more energy use," said Johnson. "In the pump house most of the energy is from the pumps. But in other buildings where there are people, you can see the difference in lighting costs."

To help prevent spring flooding, Hill travelled north with surveying equipment and checked the slope of all of the culverts in the hamlet, accompanied work crews installing new culverts and worked with the town foreman to try devising ways of thawing ice that blocks the culverts in the spring.

"The ultimate issue that needs to be solved is heating the culverts or putting something in place so during the winter they don't fill with water," said Hill. "The culverts are the last things to melt—it's ice in a metal tube underground. In the spring, water just goes over the roads ... culverts just don't work well up there."

Mongeau was impressed with Hill's knowledge and contributions to the community.

"Keita gave us a very good overview of what we need to do to put together a comprehensive drainage plan for the community. It is going to be a little more of a long-term project," he said.

Engage North is the brainchild of mechanical engineering professor Larry Kostiuk, who says he "couldn't imagine a more positive outcome" from the first summer fellowships.

Kostiuk says he "tried every way possible" to get the hamlet and its elders to be critical of Engage North so it can improve, "and they told us nothing but positive things."

He added that Engage North, which is funded by the U of A Office of the Provost and the Department of Mechanical Engineering, has been in touch with other remote communities, which may result in more positions for fellowships in 2014. ■

Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Sheryl Neuman who won a Butterdome butter dish as part of Folio's Sept. 27 "Are You a Winner?" contest. Neuman identified the photo as the crush of U of A hoodie shoppers looking for their size in the lower level of the Bookstore during the clothing sale. Up for grabs this week is another Butterdome butter dish. To win it, simply identify where the subjects pictured are located and email your answer to folio@ualberta.ca by noon on Monday, Oct. 21, and you will be entered into the draw.



MRI technique detects genetic condition that attacks the heart and brain

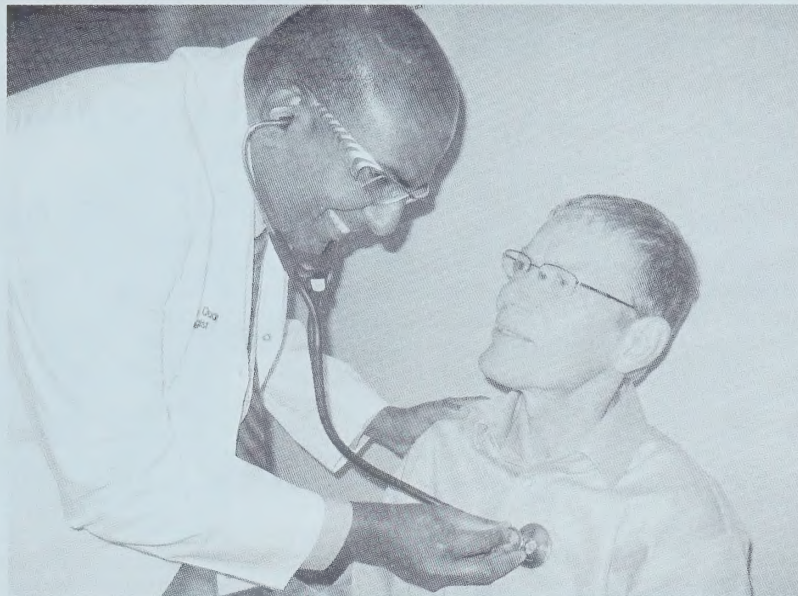
Raquel Maurier

A University of Alberta-led interdisciplinary team of researchers have found that a new MRI technique can be used to detect genetic condition that attacks multiple organs and usually results in fatal heart problems.

Biomedical engineer Richard Thompson and heart failure specialist Gavin Oudit, along with colleagues Kelvin Chow and Alicia Chan and a researcher from the University of Calgary, have found that T1 mapping—an MRI technique developed by Thompson and Chow that can detect heart damage and changes at early stages—can be used on patients to detect Fabry disease.

Fabry disease is a genetic metabolic condition that destroys the enzyme involved in fat metabolism. People with the disease accumulate deadly fat deposits in their heart, kidneys and brain. Symptoms of the disease include heart failure, thickened walls of the heart, exercise intolerance, fluid buildup in the legs, blackouts, inability to lie down, strokes, tingling in the hands and feet, and changes in skin pigmentation.

It is estimated that about 1,000 Albertans are living with the disease, but not everyone who has the condition has been diagnosed. Sometimes people will see scores of kidney and heart specialists for years before anyone diagnoses the condition. Men can have a blood test to identify the condition, whereas women—who may also carry the



Cardiologist Gavin Oudit checks up on Adrian Koning's heart health. A new MRI scanning technique promises to help people like Koning who have Fabry disease get diagnosed and treated sooner.

disease without showing symptoms—need to undergo genetic testing.

"This test can uniquely identify Fabry disease by detecting microscopic changes in the heart muscle structure that are not visible on regular images," said Thompson. "Fabry disease can look like other diseases if you only look at the whole heart structure or function, but this T1 mapping test, which can detect the tiniest changes in the heart, could identify all patients with Fabry disease."

Oudit, a researcher in the Department of Medicine and at the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, said it is very likely that this technique will become a key part in clinical examination of patients with Fabry disease.

"The earlier the disease can be pinpointed, the sooner treatment can start. The treatment

for the disease halts the condition and prevents serious damage to the heart."

He adds the discovery of the new MRI technique "is a wonderful story of collaboration—of patients, clinicians, scientists and industry working together to find a new diagnostic tool."

The research was funded by the University Hospital Foundation and Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions. In addition, the project was done in collaboration with Siemens Canada and Siemens Healthcare USA. The research was also funded in part through the University Hospital Foundation's Medical Research Competition, which directs up to \$500,000 annually to support 20 to 25 research projects.

The study was recently published in the journal *Circulation: Cardiovascular Imaging*. ■

Talking about what's Current



Anna Maria Tremonti, longtime CBC journalist and host of *The Current*, spent an afternoon talking with political science students in advance of her Alumni Weekend feature talk held at the Myer Horowitz Theatre Sept. 27.

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Seeing the Impact of Collaborative Research



Researchers Dr. Ian MacDonald (r) and Dr. Tania Bubela (l), and study participant Mark Huyser-Wierenga (c)

Genetic eye disease affects many Albertans, like Mark Huyser-Wierenga, who was diagnosed with Choroideremia at 15. A rare disease, it causes progressive vision loss primarily in males. Mark, now 52 and a lawyer, has been legally blind for more than a decade, and can no longer enjoy simple pleasures like reading a newspaper or cycling to work. But the hardest part for him is the knowledge that his daughters could pass this disease on to their sons.

Drs. Ian MacDonald and Tania Bubela are working to change that. As part of the Alberta Ocular Gene Therapy Team, they are starting to test a new treatment for genetic eye diseases like Choroideremia. The first of its kind in Canada, the team hopes this clinical trial will lead to gene therapy that could improve or restore vision loss in those affected. They are optimistic that someday, those carrying the gene could be treated before any vision loss begins.

Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions' (AIHS) **Collaborative Research and Innovation Opportunities (CRIO) Team** funding supports Drs. MacDonald and Bubela's research, as well as five other collaborative teams in Alberta. AIHS's funding initiatives are aimed at tackling priority issues in the areas of health, wellness, and the health system so that all Albertans benefit from the resulting research and innovations.

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The successful recipients of the 2013 CRIO Team competition:

Dr. Gino Fallone (UA) Real-time image-guided radiotherapy

Drs. Ian MacDonald, Tania Bubela (UA) Gene therapy for genetic eye disease

Drs. Michael Houghton, Lorne Tyrrell (UA) Hepatitis C vaccine development

Drs. James Shapiro, Peter Light, Atul Humar (UA) Stem cell therapy for diabetes

Dr. David Wishart (UA) Metabolomics to diagnose & treat disease

Drs. William Ghali, Tom Stelfox, John Conly (UC)
Health system quality and safety

UA = University of Alberta
UC = University of Calgary

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news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the stories that recently appeared on the ualberta.ca news page. To read more, go to www.news.ualberta.ca.

New drug could help prevent heart-rhythm problem

An international research team led by University of Alberta medical scientists has shown that new medications based on resveratrol—a compound found in red wine and nuts—may be used to treat atrial fibrillation.

Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry researcher Peter Light and his colleagues discovered that new resveratrol-based drugs they created and used in the lab helped regulate electrical activity in the heart by inhibiting irregular electrical currents and reducing the length of abnormal heart-rhythm episodes.

Few medications are on the market to help treat atrial fibrillation, and those medications may have serious side-effects. Because resveratrol is a natural substance, Light and his colleagues hope the new drug would be better tolerated by the body.

The U of A team is now working on advancing their drug design with colleagues at the Centre for Drug Research and Development, and through TEC Edmonton. Light expects that clinical trials with the advanced drug design will start within the next three to five years.

"We are at the next stage of developing a new oral medication for atrial fibrillation that patients could take on a daily basis to prevent this condition from occurring," he said.

Educated Indian women still face uncertain future

Women in India still face much more uncertainty than men in landing a good-paying job after graduation, according to research from the Faculty of ALES.

Sandeep Mohapatra and his colleague Martin Luckert looked at the uncertainty of educational returns in India, one of the world's fastest-developing economies. The researchers used Indian government data on education and wage levels of more than 31,000 people aged 15 to 60. They found that 42 per cent of college-educated Indian women will not get a job that matches their education in terms of pay—almost double the rate of 22 per cent for Indian men.

Mohapatra says these findings have implications for where government and NGOs provide incentives for higher education in India.

"As in other countries, the policy focus in India has been on the average returns to educational investment and not on its uncertainty. Since women constitute half of India's potential human capital, their education and skill levels are going to be the primary determinants of India's ability to climb up the next rung of its development ladder."

Fragmented habitats leave species vulnerable

Biodiversity researcher Fangliang He was part of an international team of scientists that documented the near-extinction of native small mammals on forest islands created by a large hydroelectric reservoir in Thailand.

He, a Canada Research Chair and professor in the Faculty of ALES, contributed to analyzing data and modelling the biodiversity loss on the islands. "The model shows a rapid erosion of biodiversity after the reservoir was built. The evidence is clear that habitat fragmentation accelerates local extinction of species."

Five years after a 160-square-kilometre area was flooded to build the reservoir in the mid-1980s, scientists observed 12 to 15 species on the islands created as a result of the flood. When researchers returned 25 years later, they were shocked to notice that native small mammals had vanished with alarming speed—on average, less than one individual remained per island.

He has seen a similar story in Alberta as part of EMEND, a forest research program led by John Spence in the Department of Renewable Resources. He and Spence observed biodiversity loss in harvested forests. They noted that diversity of moths and beetles stayed relatively high in patches of trees left standing within the harvested area.

"The bottom line is that we must conserve large, intact habitats for nature," said Luke Gibson from the National University of Singapore, who led the Thailand study. "That's the only way we can ensure biodiversity will survive."

Getting more of the good stuff in flax

A PhD student in the Faculty of ALES has discovered a new molecular tool for boosting the level of a valuable essential fatty acid in flaxseed oil, creating possibilities for better nutritional and industrial uses.

Xue Pan wondered why flaxseed oil could accumulate so much of its main fatty acid, ALA or alpha-linolenic acid, in comparison with other oilseed crops. To find out, she and her collaborators identified the genes responsible for various enzymes driving the final step in the production of seed oil in flax. They discovered that flax contains an enzyme called PDAT (phospholipid: diacylglycerol acyltransferase), which can incorporate ALA more efficiently than the other fatty acids in the oil.

ALA reacts quickly with oxygen to form a soft and durable film, making flax oil ideal for industrial uses like manufacturing linoleum, varnishes, paints and drying agents. Because of its high ALA content, flax oil is also considered important in contributing to good health.

Pan demonstrated that yeast cells containing flax PDAT could also produce oils enriched in stearidonic acid (SDA). "We are trying to use flax PDAT, in combination with other enzymes, as a tool to generate high levels of SDA in flax oil," she said. "Oil enriched in SDA would be more efficiently used by the human body to produce many of the health benefits offered by fish oil."

Researcher accompanies the Canadian Armed Forces to study stress and coping

Bryan Alary

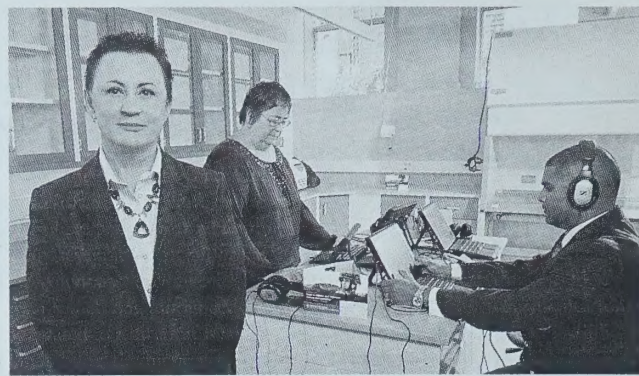
A University of Alberta researcher is spending this month working shoulder-to-shoulder with members of the Canadian Armed Forces in Afghanistan to study how soldiers cope with stress.

The tour is part of a larger study to see how soldiers and veterans cope physically and emotionally before, during and after deployment. Understanding their resilience will help researchers develop preventive therapies to reduce soldiers' susceptibility to injury or mental illness—ultimately improving their quality of life.

Ibolja Cernak, Canadian Military and Veterans' Chair in Clinical Rehabilitation at the University of Alberta, said mental health, concussions and low-back pain are the top three health issues affecting soldiers and veterans. In the case of mental health and concussions, often when symptoms manifest it's too late to restore function.

"Mental health and neurological issues from concussions develop very slowly and then suddenly all the mechanisms underlying these problems become so powerful, soldiers and veterans cannot keep a lid on them," said Cernak, a world-renowned expert on blast-induced neurotrauma with the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine.

"Our goal is to intervene earlier with pre-emptive rehabilitation to



Ibolja Cernak (left) is spending this month with members of the Canadian Armed Forces serving in Afghanistan, to study how soldiers cope with stress while under deployment.

help soldiers, veterans and their families retain a sense of normalcy and maintain their quality of life. We do not want to wait for problems to fully develop."

Some 120 Canadian soldiers from CFB Edmonton and CFB Shilo volunteered to participate in the study. Cernak's team started by completing baseline tests before deployment. Researchers measured how long it takes soldiers to analyze situations around them, responses to visual stimuli, memory, their ability to control impulses, and how they process emotions, which affects how they interact with others.

Participants completed questionnaires, offering self-reported insight into things such as factors that keep them going, and their quality of life. Cernak said soldiers also provided biological samples such as urine and saliva, which quantify how their

body copes with stress by measuring indicators like stress hormones and enzymes.

Cernak's team will conduct the same tests on the same group in Afghanistan, where soldiers experience increased stress from unfamiliar lifestyle arrangements, changed nutrition, sleep deprivation and displacement from loved ones. Additional tests will be completed upon return from Afghanistan and again at various intervals.

"The trust the military has shown in me very rewarding at the same time," Cernak said. "It's not only trust personally in me and the program, it's the trust of the Canadian Armed Forces in science, that science and evidence can help."

The study is supported by True Patriot Love, the late Harry Hole and the Royal Canadian Legion Alberta-NWT Command. ■

laurels

Sunita Vohra, professor in the Department of Pediatrics and founding director of the CARE Program, Canada's first academic pediatric integrative medicine program, was awarded the \$250,000 2013 Dr. Rogers Prize for Excellence in Complementary And Alternative Medicine.

Vohra was also named a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in recognition of her work in advancing children's health.

Chris Power, professor in the Department of Medicine, and Rob Burrell, professor in the departments of biomedical engineering and chemical and materials engineering, were also named fellows of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Power received the honour in recognition of his work in multidisciplinary translational studies, particularly in the areas of multiple sclerosis and HIV-dementia. Burrell was inducted on the strength of his work on nanostructured materials—particularly their antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory effects—which has changed the lives of people throughout the world.

John Acorn, professor in the Department of Renewable Resources, received the Medal of Honor from the

Entomological Foundation in recognition of his pre-eminence in entomology and outstanding contributions to the field.

Yunwei Li, professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, is the 2013 recipient of the Richard M. Bass Outstanding Young Power Electronics Engineer Award by the IEEE Power Electronics Society for his contributions to the field in renewable energy systems, microgrids and electric grids.

Patricio Mendez, professor in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, received the 2013 Fellowship Award by the Canadian Welding Association in recognition of the work performed by his team at the Canadian Centre for Welding and Joining.

Morris Flynn, professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, is the 2013 Distinguished Academic Early Career Award winner, given by the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations for contributing to the wider community by making his findings accessible to a general audience.

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New exhibit honours scientific wisdom of Aboriginal elders

Bev Betkowski

The traditional knowledge of Aboriginal elders is being honoured in a permanent exhibit created by University of Alberta researcher Brenda Parlee, at Edmonton's Telus World of Science.

Elders as Scientists, an exhibit featuring the reflections of three Chipewyan elders from the Northwest Territories, brings a seldom-heard perspective to issues of climate change, said Parlee, a Canada Research Chair based in the Faculty of Native Studies and the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences.

The exhibit was created in collaboration with the U of A's Canadian Circumpolar Institute, U of A graduate student Kelsey Dokis-Jansen and First Nations partners.

"Some of the oldest knowledge systems in Canada can be found here in Alberta and in the Northwest Territories," Parlee noted.



Elders as Scientists is a permanent exhibit at the Telus World of Science.

"Elders from First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities have cultural memories that can date back thousands of years."

The exhibit draws on photos and audio recordings of the elders taken during a traditional knowledge and science camp held in the barren lands of the Northwest Territories in the fall of 2012. Dokis-Jansen, who is taking an MSc degree in risk and community

resilience through the Faculty of ALES, helped co-ordinate the camp and gathered the exhibit material.

"As a young Ojibway woman studying natural sciences, I've seen the divide that can be made between Aboriginal and scientific knowledge, and exhibits like this one can show a wider audience that scientists often come to the same conclusions as Aboriginal elders and knowledge-holders through similar processes of observation and verification."

Parlee collaborated on the exhibit with colleagues from Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation, where she has worked for more than 15 years. The community of 400 people located on Great Slave Lake is one of many in Northern Canada facing "unprecedented increases in the level of mining activity," she noted.

In the last decade, the community has witnessed changes in the health distribution and population of caribou—a species traditionally entwined with Dene culture. The

audio portion of the exhibit, in both English and Chipewyan, gives a glimpse into the knowledge held about those changing caribou populations and the culture and world view of Northern communities. One of the people featured in the exhibit, Joseph Catholique, expresses the community's concerns about the toll of mining and its impact on caribou.

"There is little in the way of scientific records about caribou patterns prior to the 1990s, when mining started in the region," Parlee said. "The population has declined since then, and although there are other factors involved, local communities attribute many changes to this development."

Elders as Scientists captures a vital perspective as today's scientists grapple with ways of dealing with resource development and climate change in Canada's North, she added. "Learning from both science and traditional knowledge is critical as the North faces increasing development pressures." ■

Scholarship meets style for new vision of Venus at U of A

Bev Betkowski

Gowns created by two world-class designers, including University of Alberta alumnus Michael Kaye, are bringing a new perspective to Venus, the Roman goddess of love and beauty, and at the same time dressing up collaborative U of A research.

The Re-birth of Venus: Fashion and the Venus Kallipygos, an exhibition in the U of A Department of Human Ecology, explores the influence of art on fashion using the mythical icon, whose curvy likeness is immortalized in everything

from paintings to carved statues. The show also brings together the varied research of graduate students who co-curated their shared vision with assistant professor Anne Bissonnette.

Using pieces from the U of A's Clothing and Textiles Collection, Bissonnette and her students drew on their individual research areas of fashion, history and classics to present an exhibit that explores an age-old but ongoing issue of body image for women.

"Using the university's collection—which is the largest clothing and textiles campus collection in Canada—we've created a beautiful

exhibition, but also one that pushes interdisciplinary research, and that is very much what human ecology is about," said Bissonnette.

The Venus exhibit combines the scholarly research of Sarah Nash, a PhD student in the Department of History and Classics who specializes in first-century statuary, with the work of Bissonnette on late 18th-century dress, and the interests of Loretta Yau, a former master's student in human ecology, who researched the bias-cut techniques of French designer Madeleine Vionnet.

At the heart of the exhibit is Venus Kallipygos, a stone beauty residing in

the National Archaeological Museum in Naples, Italy.

Using the statue as a focal point, Bissonnette and her students unveil the enduring issue of body consciousness and how it influences fashion, old and new. On display in the Human Ecology Gallery until March 2, 2014, the elegant exhibit includes a filmy muslin gown circa 1808, a 1930s pleated Fortuny "Delphos" gown and a sleek green bias-cut gown Michael Kaye created for the U of A's centenary in 2008.

Kaye's gown in particular has a special place in the exhibition, Bissonnette added. "It anchors people in fashions that are still



Anne Bissonnette

contemporary, and we like the fact it links back to Alberta." ■

talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, email or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and at www.news.ualberta.ca/events. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca. Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

UNTIL OCT. 13

Walking With Our Sisters. This commemorative art installation features pairs of individually decorated moccasin vamps to honour the lives of indigenous women and girls who are missing and murdered. Telus Centre Atrium.

OCT. 16

Educated Leader Launch—Marvin Washington. Foundational to any leadership journey is the need to gain true personal clarity. The kick-off session for the Educated Leader Series is part of a three-part series for managers and executives wanting to explore the demands of leadership and the skills required to effectively lead. \$40. 5:30 p.m. 2-157 Enterprise Square.

CSL Seminar: Thinking About Student Reflection Across Disciplines. Panelists teaching in medicine, education, and arts (community service-learning) will address the question of how they think about reflection and how they encourage their students to engage in reflective/reflexive processes. The discussion will be moderated by Sue McKenzie-Robblee and Alison Taylor with Community Service-Learning. 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. 2-150 ECHA.

Innovative Leaders Series – A Canadian Energy Conversation with Peter Tertzakian. International energy strategist, Peter Tertzakian, has earned his reputation by bringing a broad

understanding of global energy issues to bear on the questions we have about our energy future. With a solid background in geophysics finance and economics, as well as a strong entrepreneurial spirit, Tertzakian cites lessons from the past to answer today's complex questions. Free and open to all. RSVP at innovativeleaders.ualberta.ca. 4:30–6 p.m. 1-440 CCIS.

OCT. 16 & 23

More than Natural Selection: A Lecture Series on Alfred Russel Wallace. Andrew Berry (Oct. 16), evolutionary biologist from Harvard University, and Martin Fichman (Oct. 23), professor at York University, will be on hand to talk about the underappreciated contributions 19th-century British naturalist Wallace made in the areas of evolution, astronomy and the hyper-diversity of beetles. 3:30–5 p.m. 2-58 Tory.

OCT. 17

Educated Wallet – U.S. Real Estate Investment with tax expert Roy Berg. Purchasing U.S. real estate is something many Canadians are considering but before you buy, you need to know the legal and financial implications. \$25. 5:30–8:30 p.m. 134 Telus Centre. For more email katy.yachimec@ualberta.ca.

OCT. 18

Mainstage: Opera Fantasies. Opera was social music for the classes that

could afford it back in the 18th and 19th centuries, with attendance as much about being seen as it was about taking in the sounds. Guillaume Tardif (violin) and Roger Admiral (piano) recreate that fun and flashy atmosphere by adapting opera's most showy vocal pieces for the virtuosity of strings and piano, playing with the scintillating potential of their instruments to tug on your heart. 8–10 p.m. Convocation Hall. Tickets available through yeglive.ca/ualbertamusical.

OCT. 19

Open House: University of Alberta. Prospective students and their families are invited to attend Open House to speak to faculty, staff and students at our booth. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Butterdome.

OCT. 21

The 2013 Gairdner Symposium – Minds That Matter. Speakers include Adrian Bird Buchanan, professor of genetics at the University of Edinburgh and 2011 Canada Gairdner International Laureate, who will be speaking on genetics, epigenetics and Rett Syndrome; and Thomas Steitz, professor of chemistry at Yale University's Howard Hughes Medical Institute, 2009 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry and 2012 Canada Gairdner International Award recipient, who will give a talk entitled From the Structure and Function of the Ribosome to New Antibiotics. 2–4 p.m. 2-490 ECHA

China, Modern Art, and Global Modernity(ies?). Ralph Crozier, history professor emeritus from the University of Victoria and past president of the World History Association, puts Chinese modern art and modernism in a global context by comparing it with the reception of modern Euroamerican art in a number of Asian countries and raises the question of what light this might throw on modernity as a singular, originally Western, phenomenon or a variety of alternative modernities. 5–6 p.m. 2-20 FAB.

OCT. 23

Brown Bag Lunch with Todd Babiak. The Canadian Literature Centre and LitFest invite you to come hear Todd Babiak in a free noon-hour reading. Old Arts Building, Student Lounge. Noon–1 p.m.

5th Annual McDonald Lecture. Pamela Palmater, associate professor, academic director of the Centre for Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University, Mi'kmaq lawyer, activist and politician from Mi'kma'ki, New Brunswick, Canada will deliver the talk. 5–7:30 p.m. 231/237 Law Centre

OCT. 24

What Is Good Teaching? | CTL Catalysts: A Conversation Series on Teaching. This is a monthly series of conversations with U of A teaching award winners on their trials and triumphs

in teaching. Led by the award winners themselves, the series is meant to provide a forum for celebration, conversation and reflection about teaching practices. Noon–1:30 p.m. L1-430 ECHA.

OCT. 26

School of Witchcraft and Wizardry: Science, Magic, and Medicine. We have set up a variety of magic-themed science demonstrations and activities and invite parents to bring their kids out for the day. Watch pennies turn gold, make a glow stick, or watch two of Edmonton's best science presenters turn their skills to magic. For more go to ScienceMagicMedicine-ualberta.eventbrite.ca. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Katz Group Building Atrium.

UNTIL OCT. 26

Fan Zeng. Some Thought Provoked Between the Old and the Young is one of 35 artworks by Fan Zeng appearing in an exhibition from Oct. 1 to 26 at Enterprise Square Galleries. A delegation from Nankai University will also take part in the opening celebration.

Print Resonance. This exhibition, organized and circulated by the Musashino Art University Museum & Library in Japan and Professor Ryuta Endo, includes participation from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp in Belgium, Silpakorn University in Thailand and University of Tennessee, Knoxville. FAB Gallery.

FAN ZENG

THE WORLD OF SPLASH INK COMES TO THE U OF A



PHOTOS
RICHARD SIEMENS,
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

In recognition of its strong cultural and educational ties with China, the University of Alberta became the exclusive exhibition venue for the work of Professor Fan Zeng, whose lifetime contributions as a philosopher, artist and academic were recognized by the U of A in an honorary degree ceremony held in Beijing in 2012.

Fan's work as one of China's last living modern master painters opened Oct. 1 as part of an exhibition at Enterprise Square Galleries entitled The World of Splash Ink: Paintings and Calligraphy by Professor Fan Zeng, and is only on exhibition until Oct. 26.

